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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): OPTI-
GEN OPTICAL GROUP S.R.L. [IT/IT]; Via Roma, 2/A,
I-20010 Casorezzo (IT).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): ROSSIN, Paolo
[IT/IT]; Via Zaroli, 63, I-20025 Legnano (IT).

(74) Agent: MARTEGANI, Franco; Via Carlo Alberto, 41,
I-20052 Monza (IT).

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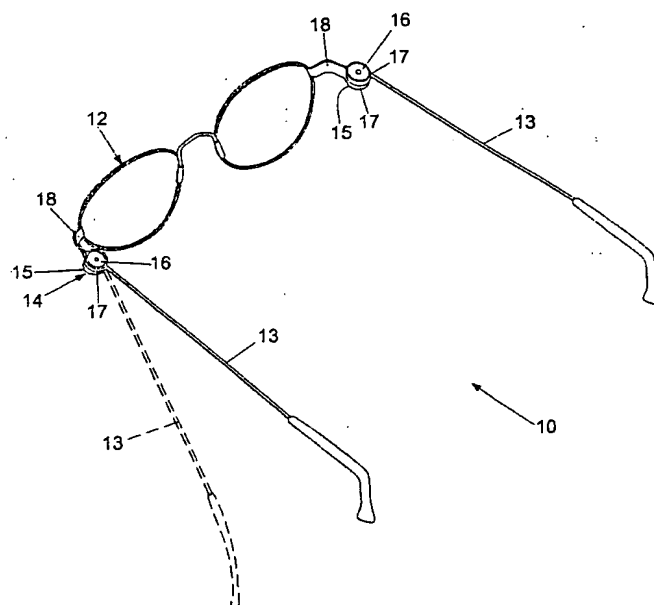
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: FRAME FOR EYEGLASSES



(57) Abstract: A frame for eyeglasses comprising a lens supporting structure (12) and two temples (13) each connected laterally to said lens supporting structure (12) by means of a hinge device (14). According to the invention, said hinge device (14) comprises a first magnetic element (15) applied integral with said lens supporting structure (12) and a second magnetic element (16) applied integral with said temples (13), said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) being engaged with each other to allow relative movement between said temples (13) and said lens supporting structure (12).

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FRAME FOR EYEGLASSES

The present invention relates to a frame for eyeglasses.

5 Frames for eyeglasses are generally constituted by a lens supporting structure or front part, provided with nose pads and by two temples hinged to it, designed to produce the support behind the ears.

The hinge between the temples and the front part
10 is generally produced with two jointed elements connected by means of a screw, pin or the like.

The aforesaid hinges are fragile elements which through time are particularly subject to wear and/or breakage. In fact, the screws often come loose and risk
15 being lost.

Moreover, even if an additional joint and/or spring mechanism is provided, in respect of the joint connecting the temples to the front part, which allows the temples to move towards the outside, the portions
20 of the frame bearing the lenses or above all the temples are often subject to deformation, which as well as being anti-aesthetic may impair the actual functionality of the frame.

In the event of irreparable damage to part of the
25 frame, the entire frame must generally be replaced or taken to a specialized technician to request

replacement of the element.

The general object of the present invention is to solve the aforesaid drawbacks of prior art in an extremely simple, inexpensive and particularly
5 functional way.

Another object is to produce a frame for eyeglasses the components of which can be replaced in a simple and quick way even by non-specialized personnel.

In view of the aforesaid objects, according to the
10 present invention a frame for eyeglasses is produced with the characteristics set forth in the accompanying claims.

The structural and functional characteristics of the present invention and its advantages in relation to
15 prior art shall become more apparent and evident by examining the description hereunder, with reference to the accompanying drawings, which show a frame for eyeglasses produced according to the innovative principles of the invention.

20 In the drawings:

- figure 1 shows a plan view of a first embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses according to the present invention;

- figures 2 and 3 are side elevations of a hinge
25 device of the frame in figure 1, shown mounted and exploded respectively;

- figure 4 is a perspective view of the frame in figure 1, in which a possible movement of the temples is schematically shown;

- figure 5 is a partly cut-away plan view of a second embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses according to the present invention;

- figures 6 and 7 are raised side views of opposite sides of a hinge device of the frame in figure 5;

10 - figure 8 is an exploded view of figure 7;

- figure 9 is a partly cut-away perspective view of a third embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses according to the present invention;

- figure 10 shows a partly cross-sectional detail of a hinge device;

- figure 11 is a partly cut-away plan view of a further embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses according to the present invention.

With reference to the drawings, a frame for eyeglasses in question in the example shown, according to the present invention, comprises a lens supporting structure 12, or front part, and two temples 13 connected laterally to the lens supporting structure 12 each by means of a hinge device 14.

25 The hinge device 14 comprises a first magnetic element 15 applied integral with the portion of frame

12 or 18 and a second magnetic element 16 applied integral with each of the temples 13.

The first and the second magnetic element 15 and 16 are engaged with each other in such a way as to
5 allow a relative rotatory movement around an axis 11 between each of the temples 13 and the lens supporting portion 12.

Figures from 1 to 4 show a first embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses 10, in which the first and the
10 second magnetic element 15 and 16 are constituted by disk-shaped elements placed engaging in an overlapping position.

In particular, the first and the second magnetic element 15 and 16 are each held along the entire
15 perimeter by a ring structure 17 integral respectively with one end of the temple 13 and with a lateral extension 18 of the lens supporting structure 12.

As shown in detail in figure 3, which represents the hinge device in a disassembled position, the
20 magnetic elements 16 and 15 are respectively provided with a pin 19 and with a seat complementary to the pin 20, which define the axis of rotation 11 of the hinge device 14. The pin 19 may indiscriminately be applied to the magnetic element 16 or may be produced in one
25 piece with it .

Figure 4 also shows how the temples 13, connected

to the lens supporting structure 12 by means of the hinge device 14, may advantageously also rotate outwards to reduce the risk of deformation.

Figures from 5 to 8 show a second embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses 10' in which the first and the second magnetic element 15 and 16 are constituted by disk-shaped elements placed engagingly in an overlapping position. The magnetic elements 15 and 16 are held on a perimetric portion of the structure 17', for example a segment of a circle, integral respectively with one end of the temple 13 or with a lateral extension 18 of the lens supporting structure 12.

Figures 9 and 10 show a further embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses 10'', in which the first magnetic element 15 is a cylinder integral with the lateral extension 18 of the lens supporting structure 12 and the second magnetic element 16 is a casing portion with dimensions complementary to the cylinder 15 and integral with one end of the temples 13. The casing 16 may rotate in contact with the cylinder 15 around the axis 11, coinciding with the axis of the cylinder.

The cross-sectional detail in figure 10 shows a variant of the hinge device in figure 9 in which the casing 16 is provided with flat retaining walls 21, which stabilize the position on the cylinder 15, so

that when the temple is stressed to open outwardly, the magnetic pull (between the two opposite magnets) causes a sort of friction during opening and when the temple is released there is a pull that returns said temple to
5 its original position (to replace spring systems used until now in the sector, commonly called "flex" mechanisms).

Figure 11 represents a further embodiment of a frame for eyeglasses 100, in which the magnetic
10 elements 15 and 16 are made to engage side by side. In the example shown, the magnetic element 16 integral with the temple 13 is provided with a circular perimeter portion, which engages in a complementary seat produced on the perimeter of the magnetic element
15 15, which is integral with the lens supporting structure 12.

A further object of the present invention is the lens supporting structure alone, designed to be positioned to engage with the temples, or each of these
20 temples.

In fact, the frame for eyeglasses, according to the present invention, advantageously allows easy replacement of the temples not only in the case of damage, but also for example to vary the colour.

25 From the description hereinbefore with reference to the figures, it is apparent that a frame for

eyeglasses according to the invention is particularly useful and advantageous. The object mentioned in the preamble to the description is thus attained.

Naturally, the forms of the frame for eyeglasses
5 of the invention may vary from the one shown purely as a non-limiting example in the drawings, just as the materials may be different.

The scope of protection of the invention is therefore defined by the accompanying claims.

CLAIMS

1) Frame for eyeglasses comprising a lens supporting structure (12) and two temples (13) each connected laterally to said lens supporting structure (12) by means of a hinge device (14), characterized in that said hinge device (14) comprises a first magnetic element (15) applied integral with said lens supporting structure (12) and a second magnetic element (16) applied integral with said temples (13), said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) being engaged with each other to allow relative movement between said temples (13) and said lens supporting structure (12).

2) Frame for eyeglasses as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) are positioned engaging overlapping.

3) Frame for eyeglasses as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) are each held at least on a perimetric portion by a structure (17, 17') integral respectively with one end of the temples (13) or with a lateral extension (18) of the lens supporting structure (12).

4) Frame for eyeglasses as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) positioned overlapping are

respectively equipped with a pin (19) and a complementary seat (20) designed to define an axis of rotation (11) of said hinge device (14).

5 5) Frame for eyeglasses as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) are respectively a cylinder (15) and a casing portion (16) with dimensions complementary to said cylinder (15), said cylinder (15) engaging slidably in said casing portion (16).

10 6) Frame for eyeglasses as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) are positioned engaging side by side.

15 7) Frame for eyeglasses as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said first and said second magnetic element (15, 16) are respectively equipped with a circular perimetric portion and with a complementary perimetric seat.

20 8) Lens supporting structure (12) of a frame for eyeglasses (10, 10', 10'', 100) as claimed in one or more of the claims from 1 to 6 designed to be connected to two temples (13), characterized in that it is provided laterally with two first magnetic elements (15), designed to engage with second magnetic elements
25 (16) integral with said temples (13) to allow a relative rotatory movement.

9) Temple (13) of a frame for eyeglasses (10, 10', 10'', 100) as claimed in one or more of the claims from 1 to 6 designed to be connected to a lens supporting structure (12), characterized in that it is provided at
5 one end with a magnetic element (16), designed to engage with a corresponding magnetic element (15) integral with said lens supporting structure (12).

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Fig. 1

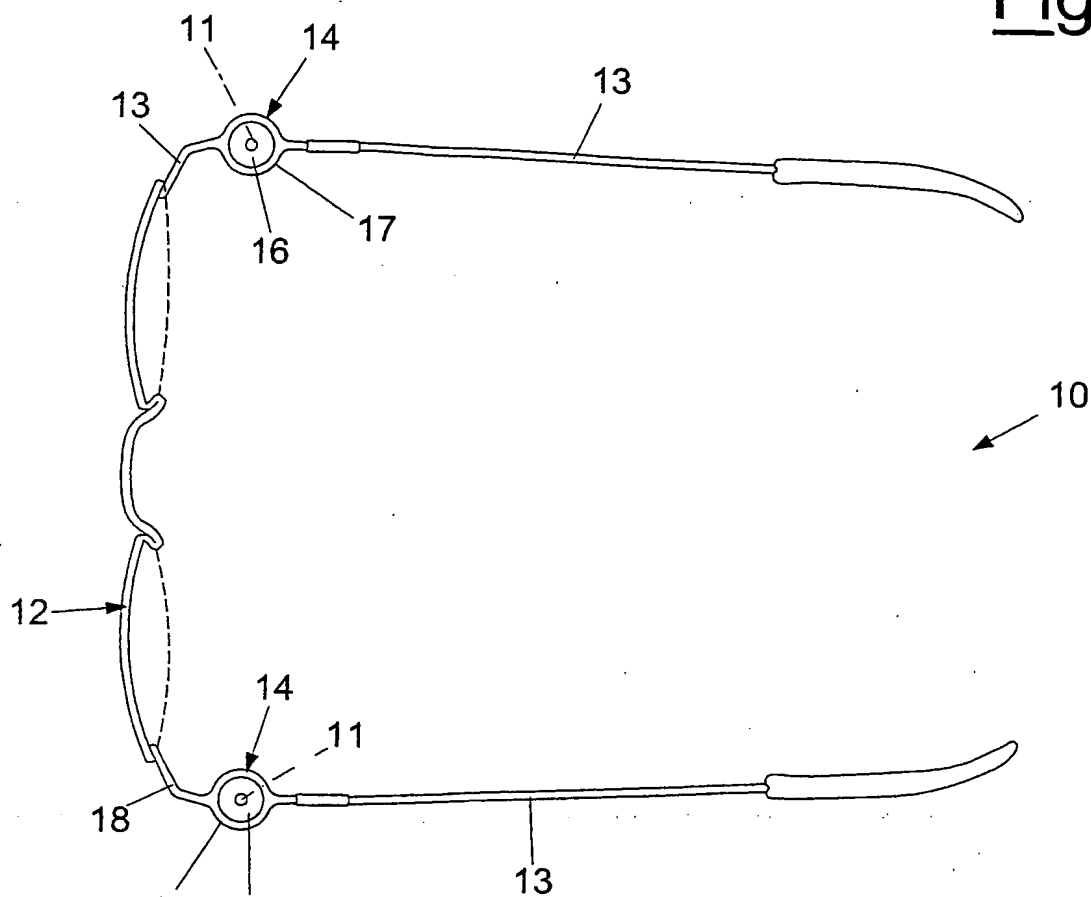


Fig. 2

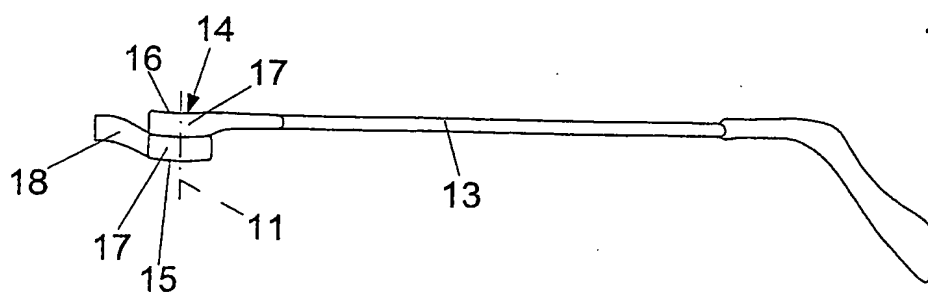
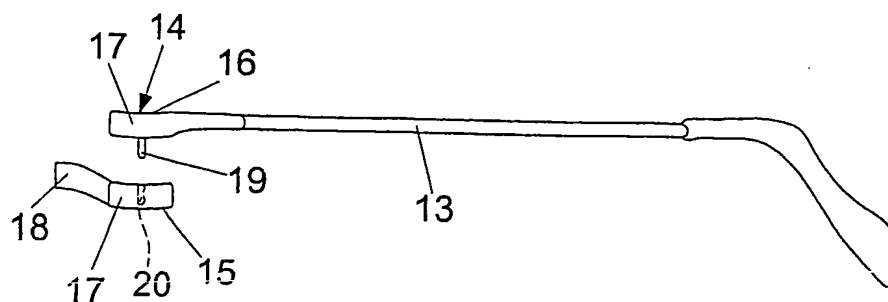


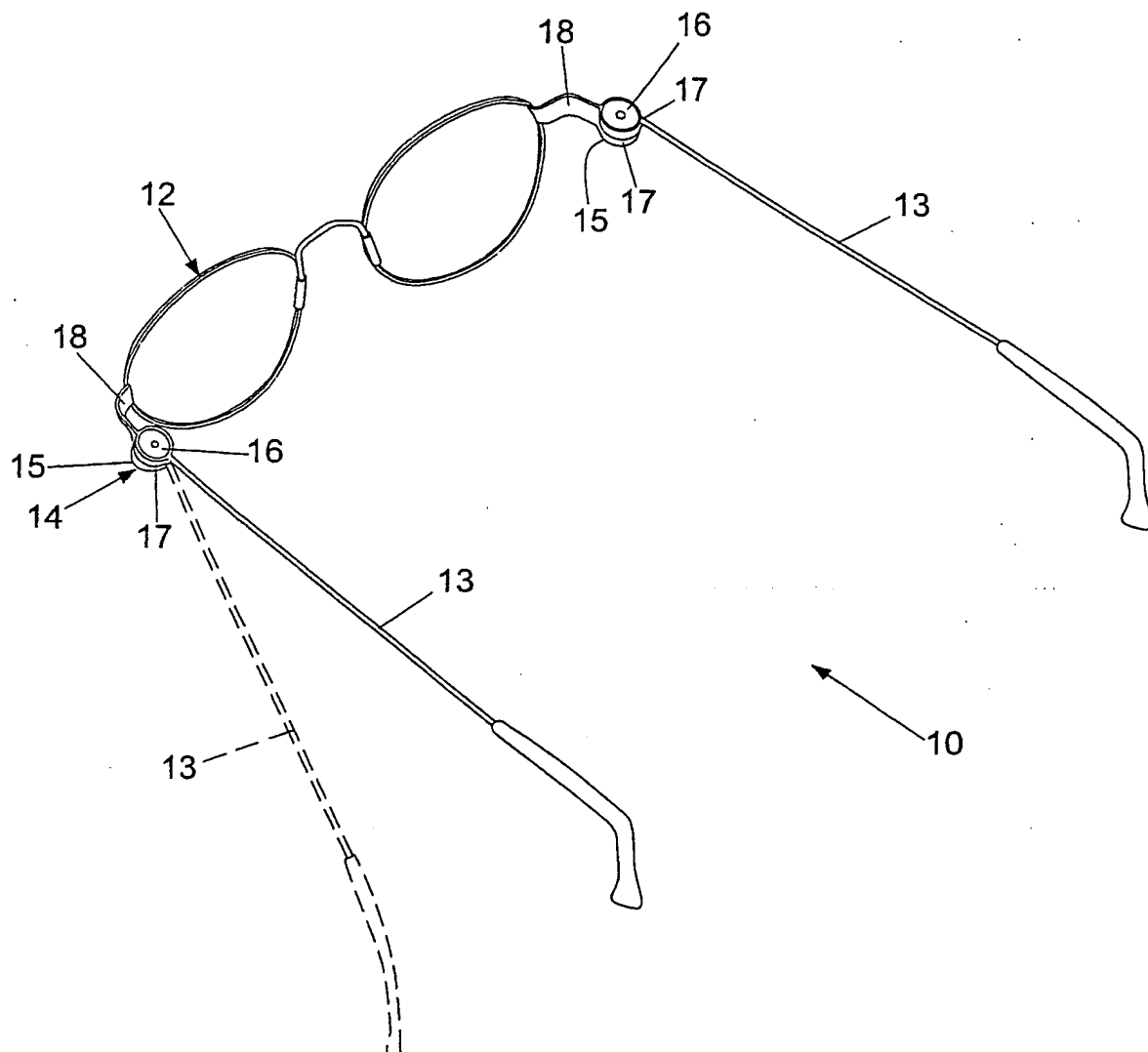
Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

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Fig. 5

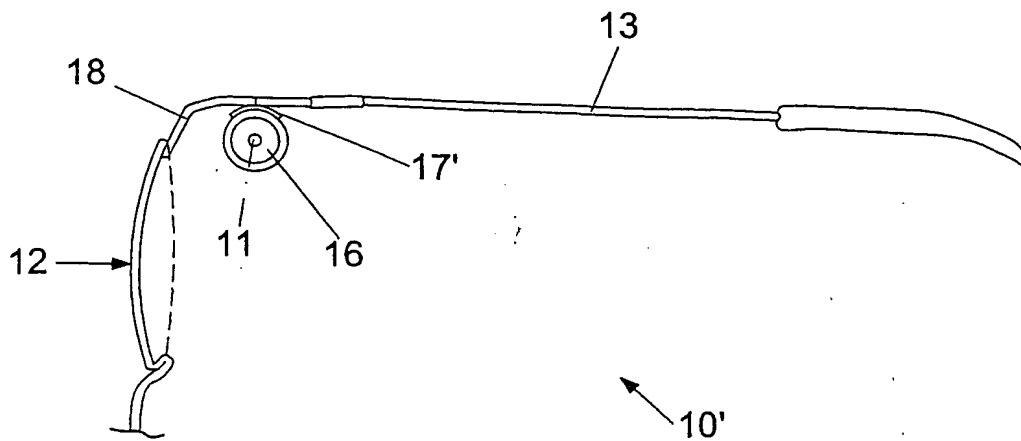


Fig. 6

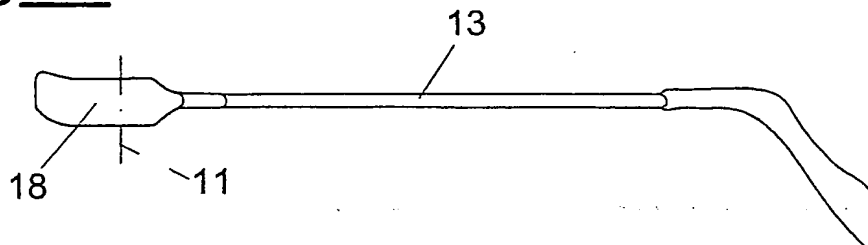


Fig. 7

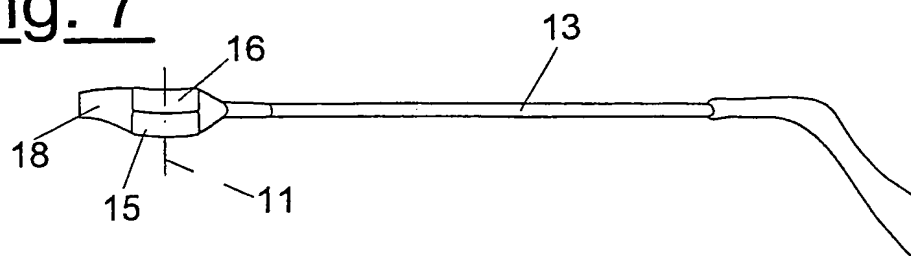
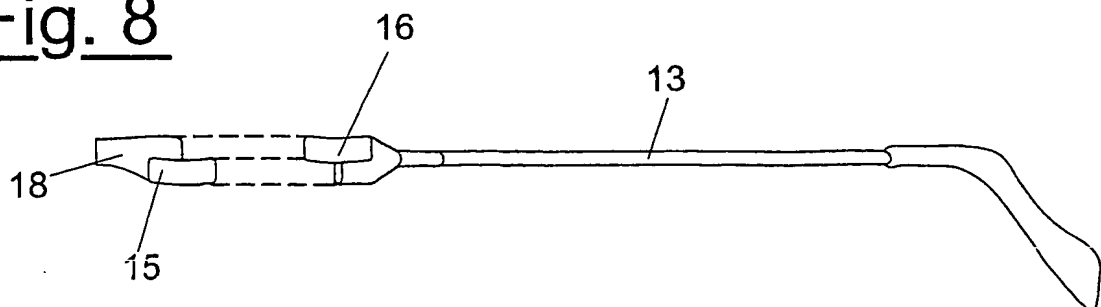


Fig. 8



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Fig. 9

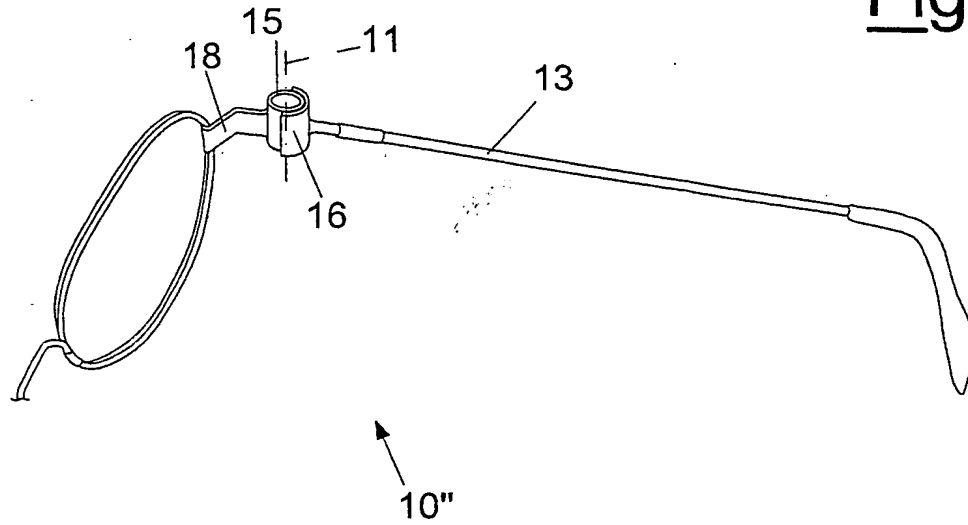


Fig. 10

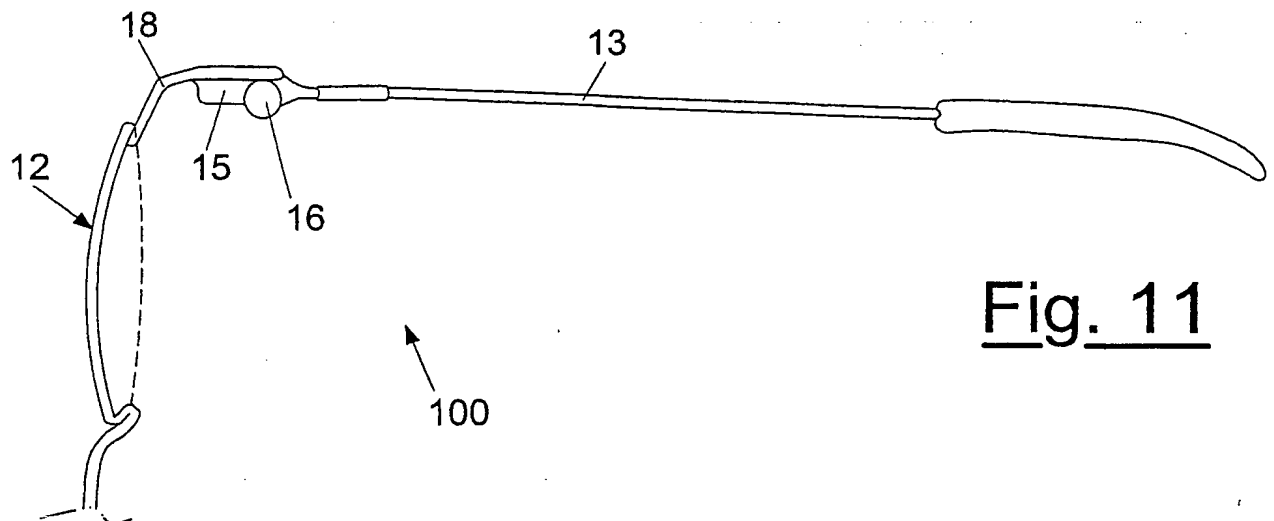
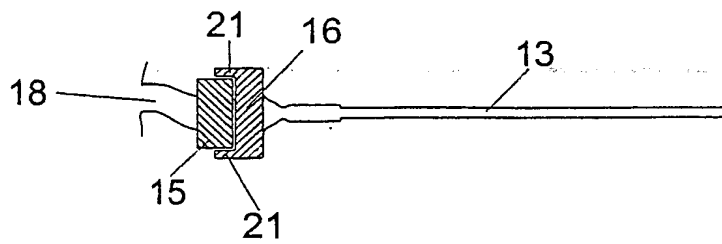


Fig. 11

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/12029

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G02C5/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CA 2 321 318 A (SUNATORI GO SIMON) 2 April 2002 (2002-04-02) abstract; claims ----	1,3,5-9
X	US 3 264 678 A (PARMELEE ALFRED F.) 9 August 1966 (1966-08-09) column 3, line 3 - line 20 ----	1,2,4
X	US 6 217 170 B1 (HSIAO YU-TENG) 17 April 2001 (2001-04-17) column 2, line 14 - line 34 ----	1
A		2-9
X	US 3 422 449 A (RINNMAN HARRY) 14 January 1969 (1969-01-14) column 1, line 20 -column 2, line 5 -----	1
A		2-9



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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CALLEWAERT, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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